

not a conceit. It is not decoration for valor. It is not a prize for being the most clever, the strongest, or the boldest. Glory belongs to the act of being constant to something greater than yourself, to a cause, to your principles, to the people on whom you rely, and who rely on you in return. No misfortune, no injury, no humiliation can destroy it.

These words are a powerful reminder of the attitude shared by thousands of our veterans, living and dead, when they answered their nation's call. They are good words to remember, not just on Veterans Day, but every day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, as is reflected in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, I was granted a leave of absence for Tuesday, November 9, 1999.

If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

On rollcall vote 577—H.R. 1714—On agreeing to the Inslee of Washington amendment: "Yes."

On rollcall vote 578—H.R. 1714—On agreeing to the Dingell of Michigan amendment: "No."

On rollcall vote 579—H.R. 1714—On passage of the Electronic Signatures in Global and International Commerce Act: "Yes."

On rollcall vote 580—H. Con. Res. 223—Suspend the Rules and agree to express the Sense of Congress regarding Freedom Day: "Yes."

On rollcall vote 581—H.R. 1554—Suspend the Rules and agree to conference report on the Satellite Copyright, Competition, and Consumer Protection Act: "Yes."

TRIBUTE TO H. HARPER KERR

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize H. Harper Kerr, former Puebloan, who passed away last Thursday.

Originally the son of an Iowa country doctor, Dr. Kerr arrived in Pueblo in the mid-1950s and practiced medicine for more than 20 years, specializing in thoracic and cardiovascular surgery. He served as chief of staff and chief of surgery at St. Mary-Corwin hospital. In addition, he served on the Board of Trustees and the Board of Directors of the Colorado Medical Society. In 1968, he was elected as the Pueblo County Coroner, where he served for a number of years.

Upon Dr. Kerr's retirement from surgery, he moved to Kansas City where he was appointed Chief Medical Director of Social Security Disability for the four-state region of Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, and Nebraska. Following his work in Kansas City, Dr. Kerr moved to Shalimar, Florida, where he was on the original committee that formed the Elderhostel Senior Center for Lifelong Learning. In addition,

he was active with the Coast Guard Auxiliary, functioned as a Flotilla Commander, served as medical advisor to the Air Commando Association and the McCoskrie Foundation.

Dr. Kerr's contributions to this country extend back to World War II as physician and surgeon of the 605th Field Artillery Battalion in the 10th Mountain Division of the U.S. Army.

Dr. Kerr was an asset to the people of Pueblo and his ability as a surgeon assured Puebloans were in good hands while under his supervision. We will miss his service and friendship greatly.

HONORING OUR NATION'S VETERANS

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is Veterans Day, and I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to those who have served our country so bravely. Tomorrow, all over this great country we will honor men and women who willingly gave body and soul to defend our nation and the values which make it great. Tomorrow truly is their day and I wish I could be in my district to celebrate it with my constituents.

My husband Walter drew his inspiration to run for Congress largely from decades of work with Vietnam veterans. I live every day with Walter in my heart. His passions and cherished causes are now very much my own. I am committed to upholding his legacy of support and respect for America's veterans.

Vietnam veterans were his teachers, as they have been ours. From their painful experiences, we have learned that when we send our soldiers to war we must always welcome them home. But, whether a veteran of Vietnam, of World War II, Kosovo, the Gulf War, or Korea, they are to be commended for their great accomplishments and tremendous sacrifice. Whether called to safeguard the world from a menacing dictator, to fight the spread of tyranny, or to maintain a fragile peace, our nation owes a priceless debt of gratitude to each and every veteran.

Veterans Day also allows veterans to come together to continue a much needed healing process. Just as Walter invited Vietnam vets into his classroom to share their stories, veterans will come together to share each other's stories and gain comfort from each other.

As a Member of Congress, I have the distinct—almost sacred—responsibility to preserve our nation's security. This means ensuring that our military remains the best trained, best equipped, and most prepared in the world. It also means providing today's fighting men and women, and those who have retired, with the support they need to maintain the quality of life they deserve. This is especially true at a time when military personnel are being deployed more frequently, and in more places around the world.

In Congress, I am working hard to support increased military pay, improved health care coverage, and a strengthened retirement system.

I am proud to note that we recently passed a Defense bill which provides much needed

improvements for current and retired military personnel. It included a 4.8% pay raise, and authorizes bonuses and other incentives to retain and promote our servicemen and women. It will also change the unfair REDUX retirement plan—giving veterans the choice to return to the more generous pre-REDUX retirement system or receive a \$30,000 retirement bonus.

When talking to veterans up and down the Central Coast—whether it be in Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, Arroyo Grande, or Paso Robles—I hear a common refrain. Vets are increasingly concerned about benefits they have earned and maintaining access to quality health care. I am working on a number of initiatives to address these concerns.

I recently introduced the Veterans Emergency Telephone Service Act. The VETS Act would set up a national veterans' hotline service operating 24-hours-a-day, 7 days-a-week. This hotline would provide vets immediate access to a staff knowledgeable in VA benefits and programs. This combination "411-911" number for veterans would provide a one-stop, toll free number veterans can call at any time of day or night to receive encouragement and assistance.

I am also supporting a bill requiring the VA to institute an annual outreach plan to insure that veterans are informed about the entire range of benefits and health care services available to them. Too often veterans are not informed about benefits they are eligible for, or how to receive them. This bill also assists widows and survivors of veterans obtain important assistance.

And I'm working hard to pass landmark legislation—known as the Keep Our Promise to America's Military Retirees Act. This bill would allow all military retirees to participate in the same health care programs federal employees currently enjoy and provides free lifetime health care to those who enrolled in the services prior to 1956.

Many Americans made sacrifices to defend our country with the understanding that upon retirement the government would provide them with lifetime health care. But for too many military retirees there is little or no health care available.

In addition, I support legislation allowing military retirees with service connected disabilities to receive the full amount of their retired pay along with VA disability compensation—without a deduction from either source of support. We need to take extra special care of those whose service has left them with an injury or disability.

I will always support our fighting men and women, whether in peace time or in war.

I will always support the benefits our veterans need and deserve.

And I will forever cherish the honor my constituents have bestowed upon me by allowing me to serve as their Representative.

TRIBUTE TO LEON FOY

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 10, 1999

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, on the eve of Veterans Day, I rise to bring to the attention of the House the extraordinary accomplishments of Leon Foy. Mr. Foy, a recipient of the